

Math in Action

Home and School Connections

>> They're coming home excited about math. I think it's a great way for us to encourage them to be a part of taking math into the real world. Getting them involved, making them figure it out. Because I think that's really what it is, we're giving them structure. We're giving them outlines. And then taking it into their own hands to learn, making them the teachers.

>> I'd rather do, like, group more learning, hands-on work, because that applies stuff to daily life. And we can make connections.

>> And that helps us cooperate and build collaboration skills for the future.

>> Yeah.

>> They're learning. They're picking up the education. They're figuring out, what's the best way to do this? In the old days, it was this way, and the only way.

>> So your topic, crime in Toronto -- such an excellent topic.

>> My daughter ended up doing a crime project, so learning percentages and what the crime rate was. When she moved into this program, where we're taking real life, she turned around. So she originally thought she wasn't good in math. But by developing this program, I've seen the marks increase, and that she's enjoying it and not coming home saying, "I hate math," and that's exactly what she was saying.

>> Or, like, the range from 16 to 18, and then 19 to 24.

>> They need to be able to go into a grocery store and they need to be able to figure out, do they have enough money to buy these groceries? I know that they're coming up with a project where they're working on how much sugar is in food.

>> Thirteen grams of sugar is a lot more than what the sugar is on the bread.

>> That's really important, because they need to know how much sugar is going to -- they're going to accumulate during a day by just eating something that we think is healthy, like a granola bar. Curiosity -- I think that's what drives them to ask questions. Every kid has a different way of learning, and we have to encourage them to figure out the best way that's best for them. And when you do that, it makes them think, how can I do this? Well, they're coming home and saying, "I understand why math is important in life. I've learned this." And they actually come home and give me facts that I don't know.

>> Everything that happens at school I tell her, because everything is so fun and exciting. And I can't wait to get home and tell my mum, "Today I got to do this and that."

>> What's really rewarding as a teacher is when a student comes back into the classroom and they share the application of a concept in a real-world context.

>> We're building our shed right now. And I told her about how we could measure and find the area. So I told my dad, and I helped him measure. What I learned at school helped me in this, because we need to do a lot of measurement when you're building something. So you need to have exact measurements.

>> Twenty-four.

>> There's 24 squares in this structure?

>> Yes.

>> Okay.

>> At the time, we were focused on volume. So he was focused on measuring the length of the shed, the width of the shed and the height of the shed. And he was talking about the walls. And so he was taking that concept of area and building it into the concept of volume as well. So I loved that, because those are the connections you want the students to make.

>> We just need to encourage them. We need to bring them to things that they do.

>> Do you know how Justin Trudeau became the prime minister? Well, specifically, he made it even clearer...

>> Whether it's baseball, playing, you know, even just like on the football field. Pick a subject that these kids like that they're interested in and put the math in, and I think we're going to grab more kids to enjoy math, and maybe encourage them to move forward to maybe taking it all the way to grade 12. Or maybe encourage them to something they may not have even opened the door to. So let's get these kids out there. Let's encourage them. Let's bring them into real life, and encourage them to find something in the math, because math is almost in everything. I don't think you'll find something that math doesn't touch.